

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF GLOUCESTER

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

M. L. SUTCLIFFE, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

For the Year 1937

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Rural District Council of Gloucester

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Chairman and Members of
the Rural District Council of Gloucester.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary conditions and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1937.

This Report incorporates the reports of the Sanitary Inspectors and is compiled to conform with Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 ; Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order 1926, and is on the lines of the Ministry of Health Circular 1650, dated October 4th, 1937.

As part of the scheme under the Local Government Act, 1929, for co-ordinating Public Health work in the country, the Rural District of Gloucester (previously part of the West Gloucestershire United Districts) formed part of a Joint M.O.H. Committee with the Borough of Tewkesbury and Newent Rural District for the appointment of a full time Medical Officer of Health for the three districts, and I was appointed on April 1st, 1937.

As a newcomer, I should like to thank the chairman and members of the Council for the help they have given to me, and also the officials both of the Rural District and County Council. I should especially like to mention the assistance given by the Sanitary Inspectors in helping me to familiarise myself with the conditions in the District, and with whom I come into contact in practically all my Public Health duties.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

MAURICE L. SUTCLIFFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

25th May, 1938.

Public Health Officials of the Authority.

- R. GREEN, M.D., D.Hy., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health (Acting) (resigned, 31.3.37).
- M. L. SUTCLIFFE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.M., Medical Officer of Health, Assistant Medical Officer of Health for the County of Gloucester and Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Tewkesbury, and the Rural District of Newent. (Appointed 1.4.37.)
- O. M. HALE, C.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Housing and Petroleum Acts, and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
- H. E. W. HOOK, C.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector. Inspector under the Housing and Petroleum Acts, and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
- H. F. FREEMAN, C.R.S.I., Surveyor and Water Engineer.
- A. C. GOULTER, A.B.S.A., Assistant Surveyor.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, in acres, 71,490.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid 1937), 22,840.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to rate books, 6,610.

Rateable value (1.4.37), £110,909.

Sum represented by a penny rate (1.4.37), £433.

The district is practically entirely agricultural in character and is a large milk producing area.

The parishes adjacent to the North, South and East boundaries of the City of Gloucester are however residential, where the services provided include water, sewerage, etc.

There are only a few factories in the district, the largest being the Aircraft Works of Messrs. Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., at Brockworth, which has at present nearly 3,000 employees ; while a new factory (Messrs. Rotol Airscrews, Ltd.) has been erected during the year on the Gloucester-Cheltenham road, and is expected to provide employment for 300—500 people very shortly ; with an ultimate possible very considerable increase in these figures.

It will be seen that the estimated population shews an increase of 340 on the previous year, while the sum represented by a penny rate has increased by £10.

Adoptive Legislation in force in the Area.

i. Prior to 1.10.37 when the Public Health Act, 1936, came into force :

Infectious Diseases (Prevention Act) 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (Part III.)

Portions of Part II, III, and IV of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Section I.

ii. After 1.10.37.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, so far as not repealed by the Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Part III, Sections 28—31).

Public Health Act, 1925 (Part II, Sections 13, 14, 15, 26 and 29).

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Section I.

Bye-Laws as to :—

1. New buildings and certain matters in connection with buildings.
11. Streets.
111. Slaughterhouses (Former Wheatenhurst R.D. only).

Vital Statistics.

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the area while a complete list of the causes of death will be found in Table 16 at the end of the Report. In addition they shew various Rates which are compared where possible with those of England and Wales.

The figures show a very satisfactory state of affairs ; for, while the Death Rate is considerably below that for the whole of England and Wales, the Birth Rate is considerably above, while the Infantile Mortality Rate is little more than half.

Table 1. **Infantile Births and Deaths.**

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Combined Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Live Births	181	161	342	10	12	22	364
Still Births	9	10	19	—	—	—	19
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	7	4	11	—	1	1	12

Table 2. **Deaths.**

Total Deaths	Male 125	Female 137	Total 262
Deaths included in the above from :—			
Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Diarrhoea under two years of age	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal causes	2

Table 3. **Birth and Death Rates.**

	Gloucester Rural District	England & Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	16.8	14.9
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) ...	49.0	39
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population ...	11.47	} 12.4
*Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.95	
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births ...	33.0	58
Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births ...	32.1	Not available
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births ...	45.4	Not available
Death Rate from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 total births ...	5.2	3.11

*Note.—The corrected Death Rate is obtained by multiplying the Crude Death Rate by the factor 0.78. This factor is supplied by the Registrar-General and serves to make the Crude Death Rate for the District comparable, from the mortality point of view, with the Death Rate for the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other area, the Crude Death Rate of which has been similarly modified.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. 2a. Laboratory Facilities.

As there is no County Laboratory in Gloucestershire, analyses of water, milk, medical specimens, etc., are carried out as follows :

Water, sewage, etc., by Rowland H. Ellis, County analyst, Gloucester.

Milk. i. Milk in Schools Scheme ; at the Gloucester Royal Infirmary Laboratory.

ii. Routine milk samples from herds, at the Agricultural Advisory College, Bristol.

Medical, Bacteriological and Pathological examinations at the Gloucester Royal Infirmary Laboratory.

Bacteriological and Chemical Examinations of Water, Sewage, Etc.

Bacteriological examination of water supplies.	Satisfactory	7
	Unsatisfactory	18
		—
		Total 25
Chemical examination of water supplies.	Satisfactory	2
	Unsatisfactory	2
		—
		Total 4
Bacteriological and Chemical analysis of stream or lake water		
	Total	1
Bacteriological and Chemical analysis of swimming pool water		
	Total	nil
Chemical examination of Sewage	Total	1
Chemical examination of Trade Waste Effluents	Total	1

2b. Ambulance Services.

1. INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES.

Ambulances are available from the three Isolation Hospitals which serve the District (by contract).

2. ACCIDENT CASES.

These are adequately dealt with by the Police Ambulances.

There is a private ambulance owned by Messrs. The Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., used for accident cases occurring at their works.

3. NON-INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES.

The Rural District Council have no arrangements for the provision of an ambulance for such cases.

There are two ambulances owned by the Corporation of the City of Gloucester, which can be hired privately.

The ambulance facilities appear to be fairly adequate, but some form of agreement would appear desirable between this Council and the Corporation in connection with non-infectious cases, as in many cases it may be impossible for the patient to afford the cost of the ambulance, which then has to be borne by the guarantor, who in most cases is the private doctor.

2c.

Nursing in the Home.

There are 15 District Nursing Associations in the area, the nurses employed doing home nursing and midwifery. Parts of the area of two of these Associations are in the Stroud Rural District and the Newent Rural District respectively. In addition, besides the above work all the Associations except one (Frampton area) carry out Health Visiting, School Medical work, etc., for the County Council.

2d.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

The medical treatment of school children, where sanctioned under County Schemes, is carried out at the Gloucester Royal Infirmary or the Stroud General Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

The Dispensary is held weekly in Gloucester and is under the control of the Gloucestershire Joint Board for Tuberculosis.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are five Infant Welfare Centres in the area, as follows ; these are under the control of the County Public Health Committee.

Medical Officer.

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| i. | Eastington | Alternate Wednesdays. | Dr. Seelly. |
| ii. | Frampton on
Severn | 1st and 3rd Wednesdays
in the month. | „ |
| iii. | Longlevens | 1st and 3rd Wednesdays
in the month. | Dr. H. S. K. Lowry. |
| iv. | Quedgeley | 1st Wednesday in
the month. | Dr. R. B. Barnes. |
| v. | Upton St.
Leonards | 1st Thursday in
the month. | Dr. R. W. Holden-
Tinckner. |

Hospitals.

Infectious Diseases.

I. CITY ISOLATION HOSPITAL, OVER.

This hospital under the control of the City Corporation has 56 beds partly available for the treatment of Infectious disease cases, from the major part of this District. The cost per patient is £3 3s. weekly, plus ambulance charges (1s. per mile), with a minimum yearly payment of £50.

ii. CASHES GREEN ISOLATION HOSPITAL, NR. STROUD.

This hospital under the control of the Stroud Joint Hospital Board has 56 beds available for the treatment of Infectious disease cases and has arrangements with this Council for treatment of cases resident in the 13 parishes in the old Wheatenhurst Rural District. There is no minimum yearly payment, the cost otherwise being the same as at the City Isolation Hospital.

iii. WILDERNESS ISOLATION HOSPITAL, MITCHELDEAN.

This hospital, a converted country house, is much smaller than the above and is under the control of the East Dean and United Districts Joint Hospital Board, and arrangements with this Council provide for the admission of cases of Infectious disease from the parishes of Newnham and Westbury-on-Severn. The retaining fee is £75 pa., while the total charges per patient, including ambulance, are the proportionate cost of maintenance charges, *e.g.*, in October, 1937, they were 9s. 1d. per patient per day.

Small Pox.

i. SMALL POX HOSPITAL, STANCOMBE, BISLEY.

This Authority pays a retaining fee of £10 p.a., and in addition the proportionate cost of maintenance of cases. (This agreement only holds good for cases occurring in the 13 parishes of the late Wheatenhurst R.D.)

ii. SMALL POX HOSPITAL, LONGFORD, GLOUCESTER.

This Authority have at present no agreement with this hospital.

iii. NORTH WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE JOINT SMALL POX HOSPITAL, LITTLEDEAN.

This Authority ceased to be a constituent member of the Board as from April 1st, 1936, and have now no arrangements with this hospital.

It will be seen that the arrangements for the treatment of cases of Infectious Disease should in normal times be fairly adequate, but that in connection with Small Pox cases, the only definite agreement the Council have is with the Hospital at Stancombe, but that only for the 13 parishes comprising the late Wheatenhurst R.D.

Tuberculosis.

Standish House Sanatorium, under the control of the Gloucestershire Joint Board for Tuberculosis, is situated in the district, on the fringe of the Cotswolds and is available for the treatment of cases of surgical and non-surgical tuberculosis occurring in the Rural District.

The accommodation consists of the following number of beds :—

Male surgical	...	...	11	Male, non-surgical	...	74
Female surgical	...	...	8	Female non-surgical	...	26
Children surgical	...	...	19	Children non-surgical		106
			Observation beds	...		6

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. i. Water Supplies.

The water supplies in a rural district almost invariably create a problem, and this is especially difficult to solve in this area, where many parishes are flat and low-lying and in parts below flood level of the River Severn.

This naturally makes the disposal of sewage, which is mainly on the conservancy system, very difficult; and contamination of surface wells is almost inevitable.

The necessity for pure water supplies has recently been stressed both by public opinion and the Ministry of Health, and any reasonable expenditure incurred in providing these, cannot be considered an extravagance.

Main Supplies in the District.

GLOUCESTER CORPORATION WATERWORKS.

Most of the main supplies in the district are from these works; which consist of two pumping stations in the Newent Rural District, and one reservoir at Witcombe. Economy in the use of these waters is frequently necessary.

CHELTHENHAM WATER WORKS.

In November, 1937, a connection was made to the Gloucester City Mains at Staverton, and a certain amount of water is being supplied to the Rural District from this source.

NEWNHAM WATERWORKS.

These are owned by this Council and supply Newnham, from a catchment area west of the town. There is some shortage during dry weather, and it is recommended that the services of a consulting engineer be obtained with regard to increasing and chlorinating this supply.

STROUD WATERWORKS.

These supply parts of Eastington and Moreton Valence.

Regular analyses of the above supplies are obtained by this department.

Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board.

This Board is constructing new reservoirs at Churchdown, with a capacity of 6,000,000 gallons. The water will be obtained from the River Severn at Tewkesbury. When these works are completed, water supplies will be available for a considerable part of the Rural District.

Extensions of Mains.

During the year, extensions of the Gloucester City mains have been made at Highnam, Brockworth, Hucclecote and Barnwood. Cheltenham Corporation have been asked terms for extending their mains to Norton and Down Hatherley, while Gloucester Corporation have agreed to extend their 4 inch main from The Longford Hotel, to Ockolds Bridge, Longford. An extension of the main to Upper Rea, Hempsted, at a cost of £688 was deferred by this Council in December, 1937.

New Connections with Public Supply :

Gloucester City Mains	...	...	195
Stroud Mains	...	...	5
Newnham Mains	...	...	14
			<hr/>
			214
			<hr/>

Well Supplies.

These supplies practically without exception come from shallow wells, *i.e.* wells very liable to surface pollution, and cannot

be considered satisfactory. The boiling of water from these wells, which is used for drinking purposes is strongly recommended.

The results of bacteriological analyses of well water taken from 13 parishes were practically invariably unsatisfactory. For instance, out of 25 samples analysed, only seven could be considered fit for drinking purposes.

The following table shows the water supplies in each parish, together with the parishes which are under consideration for main supplies.

Water Supplies in Parishes.

Table 4.

Parishes with available Main Supplies.		Parishes dependent on Surface Wells.
Barnwood	Gloucester Corporation Main	*Arlingham
Brockworth		*Ashleworth
Churchdown		*Brookthorpe
Hempsted		**Down Hatherley
Highnam		**Chaceley
Hucclecote		*Elmore
Longford		**Forthampton
Longlevens		*Frampton on Severn
Quedgeley		*Fretherne with Saul
Wotton Vill		Frocester
		*Hardwicke
		*Harescombe
*Maisemore	Private water supply (Ecclesiastical Commissioners)	**Hasfield
		*Longney
Eastington	Stroud Water Co.	*Minsterworth
		*Moreton Valence
Newnham	Newnham Waterworks	**Norton
		*Sandhurst
*Haresfield	Local piped supplies	**Tirley
*Standish		*Twigworth
*Upton St.		*Westbury-on-Severn
Leonards		*Wheatenhurst

*Parishes under consideration for supply by Gloucester Corporation.

**Parishes in Cheltenham area of supply.

1. ii.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are three main sewerage systems in the area. The Longford Works which take the sewage from the North End Special Purpose area are, owing to the great increase in building in the area, inadequate and cannot be considered satisfactory. Schemes for dealing with this sewage are under consideration by the Council.

The report of the Surveyor on the Council's sewage works is given below.

*Surveyor's Report of the Council's Sewage Undertakings for the year
1st January to 31st December, 1937.*

NORTH END.

These works, originally designed for dealing with a dry weather flow of 100,000 gallons per day, are now receiving approximately three times that quantity as indicated by the Lea recording apparatus recently installed.

Some complaints as to the condition of the effluent and objectionable smell were received during the early part of the year, but conditions have been considerably improved since the introduction of a system of oxygenation at the Works.

In past years the question of the accumulation of sludge has been a serious problem, but this trouble has been almost eliminated now that regular quantities are hauled away week by week for use on the land; further it has been found possible to burn a considerable amount.

CHURCHDOWN.

These works, of comparatively modern design, are working efficiently and producing a satisfactory effluent. Owing to steady building development in the parish the flow is increasing and it is possible that D.W.F. is now in the neighbourhood of the maximum for which the works were designed. For this reason a recording instrument is to be installed in the near future.

NEWNHAM.

There are no outfall works in this parish, the town sewers discharging direct to the River Severn. As the river is tidal at this point, the method of disposal is reasonably efficient; the system is assisted by the introduction of surface water into the sewers.

1. ii. Drainage and Sewerage in areas without main sewers.

This is generally speaking unsatisfactory, especially in the district comprising the old Wheatenhurst Rural District.

In the Frampton-Fretherne-Saul areas especially, sewage discharges into roadside ditches or rheins, and owing to lack of fall to the river, stagnates there and converts the ditches into what are in effect open septic tanks. Considerable expense is incurred in clearing these ditches out, and this is naturally only a palliative measure which does not tackle the problem at its source.

The Council have under consideration schemes for dealing with sewage disposal in these areas.

Trade Effluents.

The difficulty of dealing with trade effluents from aircraft and similar factories which contain chromic and other acids is considerable. It is a comparatively new problem and a good deal of trouble was experienced in the early part of the year with regard to the effluent from the Gloster Aircraft Works. Experiments were tried with a view to obtaining a satisfactory effluent, and one which would have no deleterious effect on the sewage plant and works.

This department has had every assistance, both from the factory staff, and from the Technical Service Department of Messrs. Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., and it is thought that the method evolved will prove satisfactory.

2. Action taken to prevent the Pollution of Rivers or Streams in the Area.

Very little action has been possible and the River Severn takes a considerable amount of untreated or partially treated sewage from the district. As the Severn is tidal in the district, and the bulk of the river is so great compared with the sewage effluent discharging into it; this, *per se*, is not a very serious matter.

Wotton Brook, Hucclecote, was found in the Spring to be receiving some sewage from the Gloster Aircraft Works. This was found to be due to the fact that sink wastes were discharging into surface water drains. This defect was immediately remedied and there has been no further cause for complaint.

3 (i.) Closet Accommodation.

Practically all the closets in the parts of the district which are not sewered are of the earth closet type.

During the year 10 earth closets were replaced by water closets.

3 (ii.) Public Cleansing.

The following parishes are scavenged for house refuse only, no cleansing of earth closets, septic tanks, etc., being undertaken by the Council. The scavenging is carried out by three contractors who deal with the refuse by tipping. No complaints of nuisances being caused by the tips have been received.

Parishes Scavenged.						Cost per annum.
Barnwood	}	forming part of the North End				£185
Hucclecote		Special Purpose Area (known as the				
Longford		North End Special Drainage dis-				
Longlevens		trict, prior to the passing of the				
		Public Health Act, 1936).				
Churchdown	...	...	...	...	...	£95
Brockworth	...	...	...	...	...	£40
Brookthorpe	}					£110
Hardwicke						
Hempsted		...	...	...	...
Quedgeley						
Newnham	...	...	...	...	...	£54
Arlingham	...	...	...	...	...	£15
Frampton	...	...	...	...	...	£30
Fretherne with Saul		...	...	...	...	£30
Eastington	}					£90
Frocester						
Wheatenhurst		...	...	...	...
						£649

The County Mental Hospital which comprises the parish of Wotton Vill deals with its own refuse by incineration and tipping. It will be seen that the cost of removal of house refuse is less than a 1½d. rate. This is a very low figure, as in some districts the rate levied for this purpose is approaching 1s.

As will be seen 17 out of the 38 parishes in the district are scavenged. This number includes the more populous parishes where disposal by burial, incineration, etc., would be impracticable.

Extension of the area scavenged is however advisable because in several villages where there is no scheme, refuse is tipped indiscriminately into ditches, on to waste land, and so on. This besides being unsightly is unhealthy, as these uncontrolled tips encourage the breeding of flies, rats, etc.

3. (iii). Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A summary of the work done in the Public Health Department is tabulated below. More detailed accounts of inspections will be found under the appropriate headings.

Table 5.

		No. of Inspections	Notices served.		Nuisances abated after Notice	
			Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Dwelling Houses	...	311	41	27	34	16
Common Lodging Houses	...	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds & Dairies	...	525	15	—	12	—
Slaughter Houses	...	939	1	—	—	—
Bakehouses	...	50	—	—	—	—
Factories & Work- shops, etc.	...	144	4	1	4	1

Number of visits made to premises for the purpose of
disinfecting after Infectious Disease ... 17

3. (iv.) Shops Acts, 1912—1937.

Duties under these Acts are administered by the County Council.

Petroleum Acts.

There are 66 persons in the area licensed to store Petrol, and 2 persons licensed to store Carbide of Calcium.

3. (v.) Smoke Abatement.

Formal action was taken in one case with subsequent abatement of the nuisance.

3. (vi.) Swimming Pools.

There have been no swimming pools in use in the area during the year.

There is one pool at a road-house at Minsterworth, but it has not been used this year owing to the shortage of water.

3. (vii.) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There were no Council houses found to be infested, 1 private house was found to be infested, and was disinfested by this department. (Zaldecide Spray.)

No tenants' belongings before being moved into Council houses were found to be infested.

4. SCHOOLS.

There are 31 Public Elementary Schools in this area, but no Secondary Schools.

Infectious Disease.

During the year there was little notifiable infectious disease in the area, but there were a few outbreaks of non-notifiable diseases such as Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox and Mumps. The schools in which there were cases, most of them very slight, are reported on below :—

(This Table only includes schools in which 10 or more cases are reported as suffering from Infectious Disease.)

Table 6.

School.	Disease.	No. of cases reported	Average No. on Register	Period
Ashleworth	Chicken Pox	16	35	Sept.—Oct.
Barnwood	Measles	12	162	April
Frampton-on-Severn	Measles	38	111	June—July
Haresfield	Mumps	20	65	November
Hempsted	Mumps	11	83	Sept.—Nov.
Highnam	Measles	11	34	April
Newnham	Mumps	43	200	Oct.—Dec.
Norton	Chicken Pox	13	75	June—July
Quedgeley	Mumps	11	130	Oct.—Dec.
Sandhurst	Chicken Pox	12	54	July
Saul (2)	Measles	54	188	June—Aug.

Following the recommendations of the Joint Memorandum by the Board of Education and Ministry of Health on School Closure, it was not considered necessary to close any schools in the area during the year.

Table 7. Water Supplies and Sanitary Accommodation in Schools.

School.	Water Supply	Remarks <i>re</i> Water Supply.	Type of Closet.
Arlingham	Pump	Pump in School house	Pail
Ashleworth	Pump	Pump in School house	Pail
Barnwood	Main	Gloucester Corporation	W.C.'s
Brockworth	Pump	Pump in School House	Pail
Churchdown	Main	Gloucester Corporation	W.C.'s
Down Hatherley	Rain Water	Shortage at School House	Pail
Eastington	Main	Stroud Water Co.	W.C.'s
Elmore	Pump	300 yards from school in private house. Shortage in dry weather	Pail
Frampton		Adequate	Pail
Saul (Council)	Rain Water	Drinking water from adjacent house	Privy
Saul C. of E.	"	" "	Pail
Hardwicke	"	adjacent farm	"
Haresfield	Main	Local piped supply	"
Hempsted	Pump	Pump in head teacher's kitchen	"
Highnam	Main	Gloucester Corporation	Privy
Hucclecote	"		W.C.'s
Longlevens	"		"
Longney	Pump	Pump in School House	Pail
Maisemore	Main	Private (Ecc. Comm.)	Privy
Minsterworth	Pump	Pump in School House	Pail
Newnham	Main	Newnham Water Works	W.C.'s
Norton	Pump	Pump in School House	Pail
Quedgeley	Main	Gloucester Corporation	W.C.'s
Sandhurst	Pump	Pump in School House	Pail
Standish	Main	Local supply	W.C.'s
Twigworth	Pump	Adequate	(hand flushed)
Upton St.			
Leonards	"	Pump in School House	Pail
Westbury on Severn	Pump	Adequate	"
Walmore Hill	"	Unsatisfactory	Privy
Whitminster	"	Pump in School House, shortage at times	"

Out of the 31 schools in this area, 10 have main water supplies, while the others are dependent on pumps or rain water and in some cases have no supply at all on the school premises.

It is satisfactory to note that there are not now many of the privy type closets in use, but some of these are very unsatisfactory.

Section 1.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

By the Local Authority	...	...	12
By other Local Authorities	...	...	0
By private enterprise	...	...	178

In addition six further Council houses at Newnham are in course of erection and will be completed early in 1938.

The number of houses owned by the Council are as follows :—

Erected under the Housing Act 1919	78
Erected under the Housing Act 1924	48
Erected under the Housing Act 1930	30
Erected under the Housing Act 1936	6
	<hr/>
	162
	<hr/>

The further re-housing proposals of the Council comprise 58 houses and these will be used for the relief of overcrowding. The percentage of overcrowded houses is now less than 1 per cent. of the inhabited houses in the area. This is a low and satisfactory figure, but it is hoped that it will be reduced to practically nil during 1938.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926—1931.

Grants have been made during the year for the reconditioning of two houses, and the results have been very satisfactory. This is a very small number and not sufficient use is made of the provisions of these Acts.

Eleven demolition Orders were made by the Council during the year, but in no case were the houses demolished, as the occupants have been unable to find alternative accommodation. The only solution appears to be for the Council to consider further building schemes for such cases.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	268
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....				311
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	.....	.....	.....	.....	76
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....				118

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	19
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	41
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	34
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—		
(A)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	12
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	12
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(B)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owner	nil
(C)	Proceeding under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	11
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil
(D)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	.....	.....	.....	56
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	.....	.....		56
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	.....	.....		334
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	.....	.....	.....	1
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.....	.....	.....	3
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	.....			13
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	.....	.....		nil

Sect. E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a). Milk Supplies.

The area is a large milk producing one, and most of the milk is bought by wholesalers and consumed outside the district. Messrs. Cadbury's factory at Frampton-on-Severn takes a considerable amount of milk from a wide area, which extends considerably beyond the Rural district of Gloucester. The capacity of the factory is 50,000 gallons a day with an average through the year of 20,000—30,000. All the milk is used for the manufacture of milk chocolate. Frequent inspections of dairy farm premises are made, while in the case of Accredited or T.T. milk producers there is close co-operation between this department and the County Veterinary Staff, who themselves visit these producers every quarter. There are four T.T. producers and 68 Accredited producers out of a total of 525. These figures are low and it is hoped that there will be a steady increase in producers of designated milk, as only a very reasonable standard in regard to the condition of the buildings and method of milk production is required.

Six routine milk samples were taken by this department for analysis and 10 samples were taken of milks as supplied to schools under the M.M.B. scheme. They were all found to be of a satisfactory standard bacteriologically.

Most of the routine milk sampling from herds is now undertaken by the County Veterinary Staff.

There is continued improvement in the condition of the cow-sheds, etc., and a number of farms have been remodelled during

the year. In a district like this, where at most farms the cattle lie out practically the whole year, it is not necessary to insist on quite such a high standard for the cowsheds as would have to be insisted on in districts where the weather is more inclement.

Anthrax Order, 1928.

There have been no cases of anthrax in cattle during the year.

(b). Bakehouses.

There are 14 bakehouses in the district, these are regularly inspected and were found to be satisfactory and well kept.

(c). Adulteration, etc.

The Acts under this heading are administered by the County Council.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are 18 Registered and two licensed Slaughter-Houses in the District, and 939 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Table 8. Carcases inspected and Carcases condemned.

		Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
All dis. except Tuberculosis	Number killed	714	36	128	4099	568	5545
	Number inspected	678	35	93	3290	524	4620
	% Inspected to Number killed	94.95	97.22	72.65	80.26	92.95	83.31
	(a) Whole carcases con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	1	—	20	1	25
	(c) % number inspected affected with disease	.004	.002	—	.006	.001	.005
	(a) Whole carcases con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	2	—	—	—	3	5
	(c) % of number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis .....	.003	—	—	—	.005	.001

Total weight of meat or organs condemned for

- (i) Tuberculosis 87 lbs.
- (ii) Non-Tuberculous disease 176 lbs.

Practically all the animals slaughtered in the district are bought in markets, mainly at Gloucester, but also at Berkeley, where they receive an ante-mortem examination by a veterinary surgeon. This accounts for the very small percentage of animals found post mortem to be suffering from disease.

It is satisfactory to note that the carcasses of over 83 per cent. of the animals slaughtered in the district are inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Sect. F. 2

Infectious Diseases.

Tables 13, 14 and 15 give a complete report on the notifiable Infectious Diseases in the area, divided into the incidence by age groups and by parishes. There has been no serious outbreak of notifiable infectious disease during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This Council provided an Immunisation scheme in December, 1935, but very little advantage was taken of the Scheme (*e.g.* only 4 cases were immunised in 2 years). This was due in my opinion to lack of publicity. In November, 1937, the Council authorised an amended scheme which not only obtains the assistance of the General Practitioners in the area, but also obtains the assistance of all the head teachers, who circularise the parents of school children under 8 years of age. The co-operation of the County Medical Officer of Health and the County Education Committee has been very valuable.

The essentials of the Scheme are as follows: The parents of every child under 8 years of age admitted to school is notified by the head teacher, that free immunisation will be given to him by his own doctor. All the doctors concerned have agreed to assist, and although the scheme is in its infancy, I am very pleased with the results, on which I shall be able to report more fully next year. The immunisation of each child by the one shot method of Alum Precipitated Toxoid costs the Council approximately 7s. 0d., and when the cost of treatment in hospital of a case of Diphtheria is in the neighbourhood of £25, it will be seen that both from the health and financial points of view it is of great advantage.

Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901,
in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

(1) Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including inspection made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

Table 9.

Premises.	Inspections	No. of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	30	1	—
Workshops (including Workshop L'dries)	114	—	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises)	—	—	—
Total	144	1	—

(2) Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.	Number of Defects Found Remedied	
Want of cleanliness, etc.	4	4
Want of Ventilation	—	—
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	1	1
Total	5	5

No cases were referred to H.M. Inspector, and no prosecutions were instituted.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Table 10. New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods (in years)	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		NonPulmonary		Pulmonary		NonPulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1—	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
1 +	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 +	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10 +	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15 +	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...
20 +	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 +	2	4	1	1	...	2	...	...
35 +	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 +	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
55 +	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
65 +	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Age not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Total	6	11	4	3	2	5	1	2

Table 11. Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register for the District at the end of the last two years.

Year	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1936	57	44	52	49	202
1937	34	35	29	31	129

Table 12. Number of New Cases and Deaths during the last two years

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1936	4	5	2	2	4	2	—	2
1937	6	11	4	3	2	5	1	2

There was one Tuberculosis death in the District during the year which had not previously been notified.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62).

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 172). This Section repeals Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

No action has been necessary under the above Regulations and Acts.

Table 13.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases by Parishes.

(NORTHERN AREA)

Infectious Diseases	Parishes																								Deaths	
	Ashleworth	Barnwood	Brockworth	Brookthorpe	Chaceley	Churchdown	Down Hatherley	Forhampton	Harescombe	Hasfield	Hempsted	Highnam	Huelecote	Longford	Longlevens	Maisemore	Norton	Quedgeley	Sandhurst	Tirley	Twigworth	Upton St. Leonards	Wotton Vill	Total		Removed to Hospital
Small Pox
Diphtheria (including	1	1	3	3
Membranous Croup	4	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	13	10	
Scarlet Fever	
Enteric including	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	
Paratyphoid	
*Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	2	13	
Pneumonia	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...
Erysipelas	
Cerebro Spinal	
Meningitis	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophth : Neonatorum	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1

*From October 1st, 1937, this disease is now grouped with Puerperal Pyrexia (Public Health Act, 1936).

Table 14.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases by Parishes.

(SOUTHERN AREA).

Infectious Diseases	Arlingham	Eastington	Elmore	Frampton-on-Severn	Fretherne with Saul	Frocester	Hardwicke	Haresfield	Longney	Minsterworth	Moreton Valence	Newnham-on-Severn	Standish	Westbury-on-Severn	Wheatenhurst	Total	Removed to Hospital	* Deaths
Small Pox
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	1	1	3	...	5	5	...
Scarlet Fever	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	7	7	...
Enteric including Paratyphoid
*Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	...	1	...	4	...	...
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	2	...	3
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis
Ophth :
Neonatorum

* From October 1st, 1937, this disease is now grouped with Puerperal Pyrexia (Public Health Act, 1936).

Table 15.

Notifiable Infectious Disease in 1937 by age groups.

Disease	Under 1 year	1 +	2 +	3 +	4 +	5 +	10 +	15 +	20 +	35 +	45 +	65 +	Total	Cases Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	nil	...	...
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup	4	2	1	...	...	1	...	8	8	...
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	9	6	2	1	1	...	...	20	17	...
Enteric including Paratyphoid	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	2	...
*Puerperal Fever	nil	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	...	...	...	3	1	...
Pneumonia ...	1	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	7	3	4	4	23	13	9
Erysipelas	1	1	1	2	5	1	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	nil	...	...
Ophthalmia
Neonatorum	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	...

NOTE.—Subsequent to the coming into operation of the Public Health Act, 1936, on October 1st, 1937, Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia are grouped together, under the latter heading.

Table 16.

Causes of Death.

in the Rural District of Gloucester, 1937

(classified according to the Registrar-General's Short List of Causes).

Causes of Death					Male	Female
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	6	13
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	1
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	...	...	...	3	3
10	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	...	1	2
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	—	—
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer-Malignant Disease	...	...	...	9	20
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	3	2
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	6	7
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	28	27
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	1
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	8	16
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	10	4
20	Pneumonia—all forms	...	...	...	3	6
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	4	1
23	Diarrhoea, etc., under 2 years	...	...	...	1	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	1
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1	—
26	Other Diseases of Liver	...	...	...	—	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	4	4
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	10	—
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	—	2
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	...	...	...	4	6
32	Senility	...	...	...	1	4
33	Suicide	...	...	...	3	2
34	Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	4	8
35	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	15	6
36	Other Diseases Ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	...	1	—
Total Deaths					125	137





